

otherwise engaged his Council work was
 absorbing But
 has there ever been a time when he has not
 found it possible
 to carry on three or four lines of activity at
 once? One
 cannot think of such If he did not go to
 Bradford, or, in
 the years that followed, take any part in the
 Fabian co-
 operation in the I L P , the reason is not that
 he had no
 time for it, but that he did not think it worth
 while As
 a matter of fact, a distinctly non-political note
 sounds in
 the closing paragraphs of *The History of Trade
 Unionism*^
 which came out in 1894, a year after this
 event True,
 they state

"Thus we find throughout the whole Trade Union
 world, an
 almost unanimous decision to make the working class
 organisations
 in some way effective for political purposes "

But, while paying tribute to the "sense of
 solidarity"
 which "had never been lacking," and remarking
 that the
 "Collectivist faith of the New Unionism" is "only
 another
 manifestation of this same instinctive
 solidarity," they
 proceed, firmly and candidly, to stress
 Sectionalism as the
 "very basis of Trade Union organisation "
 Moreover,
 while the question of how to make

"the Trade Union world, with its million of
 electors, and its
 leadership of Labour, an effective political force in
 the State, is,
 on the whole, the most momentous question of
 contemporary
 politics/"

the suggestions thrown out in the final
 paragraph, do not
 reach beyond

"the development of Trade Councils, the reform of
 the Trade
 Union Congress, the increased efficiency of the
 Parliamentary
 Committee, the growth of Trade Union

representation in the
House of Commons, or, finally, the creation of a
new federal
machinery "

This last passage is, of course, mainly negative,
but it sums
up their conclusions, and in its very
negativism suggests
a much chastened optimism, when set
beside "To your